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NOVEMBER 18, 1958

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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1063, NOVEMBER 18, 8 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 1063, REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 286.

REF: DEPTTEL 1013

IN CONVERSATION DITTMANN YESTERDAY RE IMPRESSION RECEIVED MY VISIT BERLIN I MENTIONED POSSIBILITY SOV MIGHT INSTITUTE MEASURES AGAINST BERLIN ECONOMY AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION IMPORTANCE FEDREP BE READY ADOPT PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE COUNTER-MEASURES IN ECONOMIC SPHERE IN EVENT SUCH SOV MOVES. DITTMANN REPLIED FONOFF HAD CONSIDERED ACTION ALONG THESE LINES EARLIER IN YEAR WHEN GDR RAISED BARGE TAX BUT HAD BEEN INFORMED BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS THAT POSSIBILITIES SUCH TYPE RETALIATION EXTREMELY LIMITED. I INDICATED SKEPTICISM AND URGED MATTER BE LOOKED INTO AGAIN.

MARJORIBANKS, BRITISH ECONOMICS MINISTER, TOLD ME TODAY UK EMBASSY WILL MAKE INTENSIVE STUDY ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN BY FEDREP. WE MAKING SIMILAR STUDY HERE AND WILL, OF COURSE, COORDINATE. BELIEVE MATTER SHOULD BE RAISED BY 3 AMBASSADORS WITH CHANCELLOR ALTHOUGH PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE DO SO BEFORE NEXT WEEK AS BRITISH AMB IN BERLIN UNTIL THURSDAY AND FRENCH AMB LEAVES TOMORROW FOR PARIS. SEEMS DOUBTFUL WHETHER APPROACH LOWER THAN CHANCELLOR WOULD BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN GIVING IMPETUS TO GER CONSIDERATION ECONOMIC COUNTERMEASURES IN VIEW THEIR RELUCTANCE IN PAST TO ENGAGE IN ANY PROPOSEFUL DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT. UNDER PRESSURE CURRENT SITUATION, HOWEVER, AND IF CHANCELLOR HIMSELF INTERVENES, FEEL SOMETHING MIGHT BE ACHIEVED.

BEST METHOD PROCEEDING WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE ESTABLISHMENT EXPERT GROUP COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THREE EMBASSIES

AND FEDERAL

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AND FEDERAL MINISTRIES INVOLVED, WITH IDEAS PRODUCED BY THIS GROUP TO BE PRESENTED FOR NATO CONSIDERATION. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE COULD SOUND OUT BRITISH AND FRENCH ON IDEA OF AMBASSADORS JOINTLY PROPOSING THIS TO CHANCELLOR AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY.

TRIMBLE

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